



EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT NEWS
The Monthly Electronic Newsletter of
The Bureau of Emergency Management
Division of Emergency Services
N.H. Department of Safety, Richard M. Flynn, Commissioner
33 Hazen Drive
Concord, NH 03305
1-800-852-3792
newsletters@nhoem.state.nh.us

June 2006

CHIEF POPE NOMINATED EM DIRECTOR; AGENCY REORGANIZED –

Concord Fire Chief Christopher Pope has been nominated to the newly-created position of state Director of Homeland Security and Emergency Management. Under legislation passed this year, Pope will be responsible, if confirmed, for all Homeland Security and Emergency Management activities of the state and will report to Safety Commissioner Richard M. Flynn and Governor John Lynch. The legislation splits the existing Division of Emergency Services, Communications and Management into two new divisions of the Department of Safety: the Division of Homeland Security and Emergency Management and the Division of Emergency Communications. Emergency Communications, which operates the state's 911 call center, will continue to be headed by Bruce G. Cheney. The organizational changes take effect on July 1st.

Director-designate Pope has been with the Concord Fire Department since 1977, serving as a firefighter, division commander, battalion chief and special projects coordinator. He has served as chief and emergency management coordinator for the past four years. He recently finished a master's degree program in National Security Studies from the U.S. Naval Postgraduate School. A vote on his confirmation is expected on July 19th.

FLOOD RECOVERY EFFORTS CONTINUE – A month after the May floods that devastated more than 100 New Hampshire communities across the state, recovery efforts are continuing. Disaster Recovery Centers remain open in Concord, Raymond, Manchester and Rochester, staffed by personnel from the Community Action Programs and the Small Business Administration. FEMA personnel also staffed the centers until June 16th. As of that date, FEMA had approved \$7.7 million in flood aid to 3,800 N.H. applicants. New Hampshire received Presidential Disaster Declarations for Individual Assistance and Public Assistance for Belknap, Carroll, Hillsborough, Merrimack, Rockingham and Strafford counties. Grafton County was approved for Public Assistance on June 21st.

Local emergency management directors can help people in their communities by urging them to apply for flood aid, which is available from a variety of federal, state and other sources. If they have not yet done so, flood victims should call FEMA to register at 1-800-621-FEMA or on line at www.fema.gov, and then go to the closest Disaster Recovery Center to apply.

DRCs are located at:

- Community Action Program of Belknap/Merrimack County, Inc.
2 Industrial Park, Concord, 225-6880
- Rockingham Community Action Inc. of Greater Raymond
Jedediah Brown Homestead, 55 Prescott Road, Raymond, 895-2303
- Southern N.H. Services, Inc., of Hillsborough County
160 Silver Street, Manchester, 668-8010, ext. 6147
- Strafford County Community Action Committee Inc.
Rochester Community Center, 150 Wakefield Street, Rochester, 332-3963

MOLD IS SERIOUS POST-FLOOD HEADACHE – In addition to pumping out flooded basements and repairing and replacing damaged property, flood victims should be concerned about the growth of mold in their homes. Mold can grow on damp surfaces and can cause serious respiratory, eye and skin problems. Flood-damaged properties should be dried out as quickly as possible and surfaces where mold has appeared should be thoroughly cleaned or removed. Further information on mold is available from the N.H. Department of Environmental Services at www.des.nh.gov/BEOH and from BEM at www.nhoem.state.nh.us.

EMERGENCY AGENCIES TAKE FLOOD INFORMATION TO CONSUMERS – Staff from FEMA and BEM provided information on a variety of flood-related topics to consumers at and all-day information booth at Lowe's in Epping on June 17th. They provided one-stop shopping for information on flood clean-up, mold removal, flood protection and state and federal assistance for flood victims. More than 50 people stopped at the exhibition during the day. Similar efforts may be conducted in the future.

GOVERNOR LYNCH SIGNS FLOOD AID BILL – With recovery operations from May's flood still underway, Governor Lynch gave the final OK to a bill to provide \$2.8 million in state aid to the worst-hit victims of last October's flood. He traveled to Alstead on June 7th for a signing ceremony at the Alstead fire station.

The measure appropriates \$2.8 million to buy flood-damaged property in Alstead, Langdon and Walpole and convert it to public use. It establishes a commission to determine appropriate uses for the acquired property. The property will be purchased by the state through the Department of Transportation. Property owners would be compensated at assessed value, minus any insurance or other aid that they have received.

CERTS ASSISTED IN MAY FLOOD RESPONSE – State Citizen Corps Coordinator Domenic DiNatale reports that the state's Community Emergency Response Teams were very active in responding to and cleaning up after New Hampshire's May floods. Here is his rundown of CERT flood-related activities:

- **Salem** Citizen Corps volunteers provided 90-100 hours of relief work to assist residents in flood recovery efforts including removing debris from homes for elderly and disabled from May 20, 2006 to May 22, 2006.
- **New Ipswich** CERT members provided 80 hours of assistance with sheltering, clean-up operations and data collection at the request of the Manchester Red Cross on May 24, 2006.
- **Goffstown** CERT members contributed approximately 300 hours to assist in flood recovery efforts. The duties performed by the 25 CERT members included notifying residents that the flood was a very strong possibility, directing traffic, staffing information stations at check points, distributing supplies and supporting administrative duties.
- **Pelham** CERT members assisted the Pelham Police Department with the recent flood recovery efforts by providing detour information to residents while standing guard at both ends of four bridges closed due to flood damage. In addition, CERT members went door-to-door in the town's hardest-hit areas and offered residents Red Cross cleaning kits and bottled water. In one week, the team visited 230 homes in Pelham, giving out 70 basement cleanup kits and 20 cases of bottled water.
- To assist with **Kingston's** storm response on May 25, 2006, eight CERT members filled sandbags that were issued by the state using sand from the town Highway Department. The eight CERT members provided 80 hours of flood relief work for Kingston's storm response operations.

ALSTEAD OFFICIALS NAMED EMERGENCY MANAGERS OF THE YEAR –

Elected and emergency officials from the Town of Alstead have been named New Hampshire Emergency Managers of the year for 2006. Ordinarily, a single individual is named EM of the year. But BEM staff members felt that the honor should go to all officials of the town, which was the “ground zero” of last October’s flood.

LOCAL RESPONDERS SHARPEN SKILLS AT STATEWIDE CONFERENCE –

About 340 local emergency responders turn out for an all-day conference in Concord on Monday, June 12th to develop their professional skills and be briefed by state officials on current emergency management issues. The primary focus was on biological issues, such as pandemic flu and how to prepare for and respond to it. Governor John Lynch told the participants that pandemic flu will not confine itself to state borders and a regional approach will be needed to protect the public. He cautioned that an uncontained disease outbreak, such as avian flu, would be devastating for the state and it would not be a one, two or three-day event. It would be sustained over a long period of time.

Participants also heard from Assistant Director of Emergency Services Kathryn Douth, Public Health Director Mary Ann Cooney and Dr. Jose Montero, the state epidemiologist. Breakout sessions covered operations of Points of Dispensing and Emergency Operations Centers, Planning for Isolation and Quarantine, NIMS, and the successful use of volunteers during emergencies.